IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS MARSHALL DIVISION

HEADWATER RESEARCH LLC

Plaintiff,

v.

Case No. 2:22-CV-00422-JRG-RSP

SAMSUNG ELECTRONICS CO., LTD and SAMSUNG ELECTRONICS AMERICA, INC.,

Defendants.

SAMSUNG'S OPPOSITION TO HEADWATER'S MOTION FOR PARTIAL SUMMARY JUDGMENT AS TO DEFENDANT SAMSUNG'S STANDING DEFENSE (DKT. 241)

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EXHIBIT INDEX & NOTES

Exhibit	Description
1	Excerpts from Headwater Seventh Supplemental Objections and Responses to
	Defendants' First Set of Interrogatories (Nos. 1-12), dated March 15, 2024

- * Emphasis added unless otherwise noted.
- ** Form objections are omitted from deposition transcript quotations unless otherwise noted.
- *** "Headwater" or "HW" refers to Plaintiff and its purported predecessors.
- **** "UMF" refers to Undisputed Material Fact.

I. INTRODUCTION

Headwater premises its standing argument on its contention that the employment agreements between the Headwater inventors and Qualcomm are "void." Dkt. 241 at 1. However, far from establishing standing, this argument actually confirms *lack of standing* because the Court may not decide the validity of the Qualcomm/Inventor agreements without joining both Qualcomm and its ex-employees as parties. *E.g.*, *Larson v. Correct Craft, Inc.*, 569 F.3d 1319, 1327 (Fed. Cir. 2009) (finding no standing where plaintiff's claim required "first voiding his patent assignments"); *Ash Grove Texas, L.P. v. City of Dallas*, 2009 WL 3270821, *15 (N.D. Tex. Oct. 9, 2009) (federal courts "consistently hold that a party to an agreement in dispute is an indispensable party").

In addition to that dispositive jurisdictional issue, Headwater is also wrong the Qualcomm agreements are void under California law. To the contrary, the agreements' language tracks the statute that Headwater quotes, and this case does not involve a restriction on future employment because Dr. Raleigh admits he conceived the Headwater invention at Qualcomm. Headwater simply ignores that dispositive evidence regarding the timing of Dr. Raleigh's conception, along with all the other evidence cited in Samsung's pending motion to dismiss for lack of standing. *See* Dkt. 236. As detailed in Samsung's motion and summarized herein, Qualcomm is the co-owner of the patents-in-suit based on its agreements with inventors Dr. Raleigh and Dr. Raissinia.

Finally, since standing is for the Court, the Court may resolve evidentiary disputes. It should deny Headwater's motion for summary judgment and instead grant Samsung's motion to dismiss for lack of standing.

II. RESPONSE TO STATEMENT ISSUES

1. Headwater is wrong that the Court must decide whether "the asserted patents are

subject to a *post-employment invention assignment provision*" because Dr. Raleigh and Dr. Raissinia assigned the asserted patents to Qualcomm while they were employees, and they conceived the invention while at Qualcomm.

2. Headwater is wrong that this Court has jurisdiction to decide whether "the post-employment assignment provision is *void under California law*." Qualcomm, Dr. Raleigh, and Dr. Raissinia are necessary and indispensable parties for this issue, and they have not been joined.

The actual question presented is whether Headwater has established standing to assert the patents-in-suit when Qualcomm is a co-owner and has not been joined.

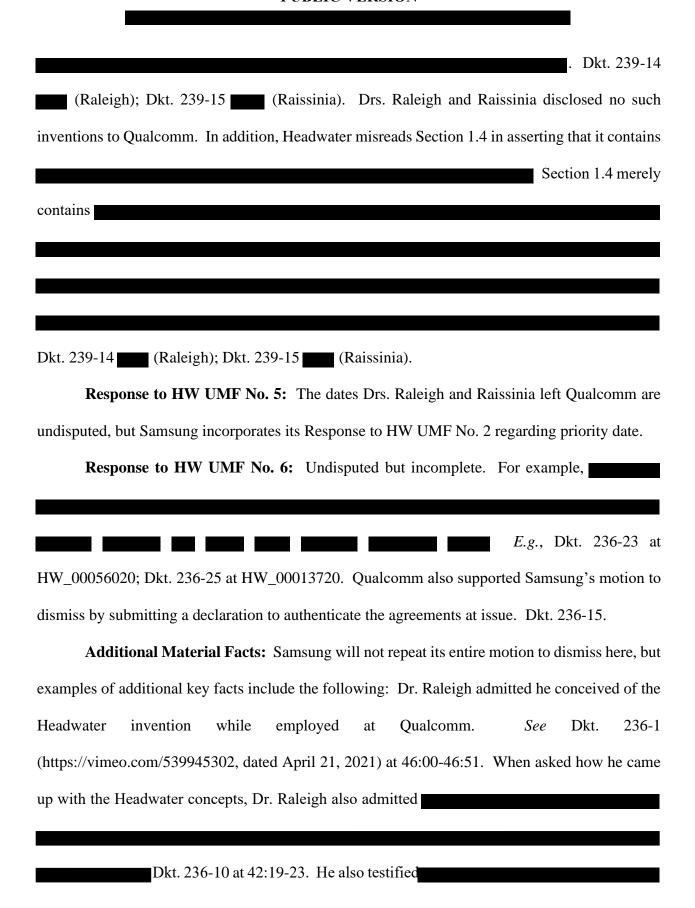
III. RESPONSE TO STATEMENT OF FACTS

Response to HW UMF No. 1: Denied. While Drs. Raleigh and Raissinia purported to assign the patents-in-suit to plaintiff, they had already assigned them to Qualcomm in their employment agreements. Dkt. 239-14 ; Dkt. 239-15 ; Dkt. 239-15 (Raissinia; same). Qualcomm thus owns the asserted patents. Headwater is also a co-owner through the third inventor, James Lavine.

Response to HW UMF No. 2: Denied. While Samsung's prior art expert accepted the May 25, 2010 priority date for purposes of selecting prior art for the asserted claims, Headwater asserted that at least some claims and/or claim elements of the asserted patents have a priority date of January 28, 2009, when Headwater filed the '354 provisional. *E.g.*, Dkt. 236-28 at 11-24; *see also* Dkt. 236-26 ('354 provisional). In addition, conception is more important to the present motion than priority, and Headwater never retracted its position that the '354 provisional establishes conception on or before January 28, 2009. Dkt. 236-28 at 8-9.

Response to HW UMF No. 3: Undisputed.

Response to HW UMF No. 4: Headwater accurately quotes Dr. Raleigh and Dr. Raissinia's employment agreement with Qualcomm, but omits material portions, including the



to Headwater.

id. at 44:4-20, and he described Qualcomm as having

Dkt. 236-20 at 88:12-20. When Dr. Raissinia was shown a related patent application he filed while at Qualcomm, he admitted "in [his] work for Qualcomm, [he] did work on power saving mechanisms in the field of the wireless communications." Dkt. 236-11 at 34:10-14. He agreed claim 1 of his Qualcomm application covers one method "that facilitates power save features in a wireless communication system" and that it involved negotiating a scheduled window to wake up and communicate. *Id.* at 35:20-23, 35:24-38:5; *see also id.* at 28:9-31:7, 51:16-53:11; Dkt. 236-31 (Qualcomm patent application filed in 2008 in Dr. Raissinia's name).

IV. ARGUMENT

A. Headwater Lacks Standing to Challenge the Validity of the Qualcomm Employment Agreements

The law is clear that Qualcomm, Dr. Raleigh, and Dr. Raissinia are all indispensable parties for this Court to address whether Dr. Raleigh's and Dr. Raissinia's employment agreements with Qualcomm are void. For example, in *Larson* the Federal Circuit found no standing where establishing the plaintiff's standing would require "first voiding his patent assignments." 569 F.3d at 1327 (holding that inventor who had assigned his patent rights had no standing to seek correction of inventorship where court would first have to void assignment before reaching correction issue). That decision is consistent with other Federal Circuit precedent. *See Nolen v. Lufkin Indus., Inc.*, 466 F. App'x 895, 899 (Fed. Cir. 2012) ("a claim for patent infringement does not arise under the patent laws when it requires judicial action to vest title in the party alleging infringement"; granting motion to dismiss appeal and transferring to Fifth Circuit where infringement claims were conditioned on first rescinding previous assignment of patent ownership rights); *Jim Arnold Corp.* v. *Hydrotech Sys., Inc.*, 109 F.3d 1567, 1572 (Fed. Cir. 1997) (if plaintiff does not own patent absent judicial intervention voiding patent assignment, "federal court is not the place to seek that

initial judicial intervention"; infringement suit could not proceed in federal court where it depended on first rescinding prior assignment, an issue for Texas state court).

None of the employment agreement cases cited by Headwater are to the contrary because they all included the disputed assignee as a party to the litigation. *E.g.*, *Whitewater W. Indus.*, *Ltd. v. Alleshouse*, 981 F.3d 1045, 1046 (Fed. Cir. 2020) (former employer sued ex-employees and their new company); *Bio-Rad Labs.*, *Inc. v. Int'l Trade Comm'n*, 996 F.3d 1302, 1315 (Fed. Cir. 2021) (accused infringer asserted ownership of asserted patents). Crucially, Headwater does not cite a single case in which a federal court bases standing on the alleged invalidity of a patent assignment where the parties to that assignment were not also parties to the litigation.

To the contrary, federal courts "consistently hold that a party to an agreement in dispute is an indispensable party." *Ash Grove Texas*, 2009 WL 3270821, at *15. Courts so holding include the Fifth Circuit. *See Broussard v. Columbia Gulf Transmission Co.*, 398 F.2d 885, 887-88 (5th Cir. 1968) (affirming ruling that part owner of real property was indispensable party in suit to invalidate easement across that property); *Tucker v. Nat'l Linen Serv. Corp.*, 200 F.2d 858, 863 (5th Cir. 1953) (affirming dismissal of derivative suit by stockholder for failure to join indispensable parties where stockholder sought cancellation of stock certificates in names of persons not made parties to action); *Keegan v. Humble Oil & Refining Co.*, 155 F.2d 971, 973 (5th

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¹ The district court cases discussed in *Whitewater*, 981 F.3d at 1055, and cited by Headwater likewise all involved litigation between former employers/employees. *See Armorlite Lens Co. v. Campbell*, 340 F. Supp. 273, 274 (S.D. Cal. 1972) (former employer sued ex-employees); *Applied Materials, Inc. v. Advanced Micro-Fabrication Equipment (Shanghai) Co.*, 630 F. Supp. 2d 1084, 1088 (N.D. Cal. 2009) (defendant asserted invalidity of agreement between plaintiff and its exemployees who now worked at defendant); *Conversion Logic, Inc. v. Measured, Inc.*, No. 2:19-cv-05546, 2019 WL 6828283, at *3 (C.D. Cal. 2019) (ex-employees and their new employer asserted invalidity of plaintiff's employment agreement). The same is true of *Fibrogen, Inc. v. Hangzhou Andao Pharm. Ltd.*, No. 22-CV-07148-AMO, 2024 WL 1199018, at *1 (N.D. Cal. Mar. 20, 2024) (employer sued former employees, who asserted invalidity of assignment agreement).

Cir. 1946) ("We are of opinion that parties are indispensable when their interests in the subject matter of the suit and in the relief sought are so bound up with that of the other parties that their interest would be directly affected by the decree.").

Courts in this district and elsewhere have held the same. *E.g.*, *Balsam Coffee Sols. Inc. v. Folgers Coffee Co.*, No. 6:09-CV-89, 2009 WL 3297292, at *4 (E.D. Tex. Oct. 14, 2009) (rejecting validity of assignment as relevant to standing; "Neither party to the contract has attempted to void or otherwise set aside the 2006 agreement. Defendants were not a party to the contract and may not void the agreement at their option."); *see also iiiTec Ltd. v. Weatherford Tech. Holdings, LLC*, No. CV 4:19-03386, 2020 WL 10897508, at *7-8 and n.4 (S.D. Tex. Dec. 1, 2020) (finding party to agreement necessary and indispensable; gathering cases); *Machal, Inc. v. Jena Band of Choctaw Indians*, 387 F. Supp. 2d 659, 664 (W.D. La. 2005) ("Plaintiff is not a party to the Development Agreements that it seeks to have declared void, and therefore, it does not have standing to contest the validity of those agreements.")

Here, none of Qualcomm, Dr. Raleigh, or Dr. Raissinia are parties, and cannot be. The deadline for joining parties expired over a year ago. Dkt. 75 at 6 (deadline to join additional parties was March 21, 2023). Moreover, Headwater's principal Dr. Raleigh waived his opportunity to be a plaintiff by not choosing to become a named plaintiff in a timely fashion, and both Qualcomm and Dr. Raissinia are residents of California. It is unlikely Headwater could obtain personal jurisdiction over them in this district or establish proper venue for a contract dispute between California residents governed by California law.

Thus, by placing into issue the validity of the Qualcomm agreements, Headwater confirms the necessity of dismissing this case for lack of standing since indispensable parties are not present.

Again, where standing depends upon first voiding an assignment, the Federal Circuit has expressly

held that there is no standing. Larson, 569 F.3d at 1321.

B. Regardless, the Qualcomm Employment Agreements Are Not Void Under California Law

Even putting aside the fatal jurisdictional flaw in Headwater's argument, Headwater has failed to establish that the agreements between Qualcomm and Drs. Raleigh and Raissinia are void under California law. First, the Qualcomm agreements have language that tracks the more specific California statute that Headwater quotes. *Compare* Dkt. 241 at 3 (quoting California Labor Code § 2870(a)) with *id.* at 2 (quoting of the Qualcomm agreements). Like the California statute, the Qualcomm agreements

. *Id.* Indeed, Headwater does not explain how the language of the Qualcomm agreements is materially different from the statute, and it is not.

 deposition testimony. *E.g.*, Dkt. 236-10 (11-15-23 Raleigh Dep. Tr.) at 30:20-23, 42:19-23, 44:4-20; Dkt. 236-20 (3-7-24 Raleigh Dep. Tr.) at 88:12-20; Dkt. 236-11 (Raissinia Dep. Tr.) at 34:10-14, 35:20-23, 35:24-38:5; *id.* at 28:9-31:7, 51:16-53:11; Dkt. 236-31 (Raissinia Dep. Ex. 2).

These circumstances distinguish the cases Headwater cites. For example, in Whitewater, it was undisputed that conception occurred after termination of the previous employment. 981 F.3d at 1046 (plaintiff employed co-inventor Mr. Alleshouse "until just before he went into business with Mr. Yeh and the patented inventions were conceived"); see also id. at 1050 ("The parties now accept two important factual premises: first, the inventions at issue were not conceived until after Mr. Alleshouse left his job at Wave Loch; second, Mr. Alleshouse did not use any tradesecret or other confidential information belonging to Wave Loch (now Whitewater) in arriving at the patented inventions."). Moreover, the dispositive issue addressed by the Federal Circuit was "how broadly, if at all, employment contract provisions may require assignment of inventions conceived post-employment and without use of the former employer's confidential information." Id. at 1050. And the Federal Circuit found the agreement void under California law because "[a] wide range of *inventions made after leaving* the employer, *for all time*, would have to be assigned to that (now former) employer." *Id.* at 1052. In addition, "Whitewater did not timely make any argument in this court that the provision could be upheld if we concluded that § 16600 might permit a narrower provision that covered Mr. Alleshouse's particular circumstance." *Id.* at 1051.

The other cases cited by Headwater also involve post-employment conception. *E.g.*, *Bio-Rad Labs.*, 996 F.3d at 1316 ("We accept the finding that the asserted claims in this matter had a conception date no earlier than January 2013, after Drs. Hindson and Saxonov left their

239-14 (Raleigh); Dkt. 239-15 (Raissinia).

Thus, even if this Court were to address the validity of the Qualcomm agreements under California law without the addition of Qualcomm and Drs. Raleigh and Raissinia as indispensable parties, it should find them valid, just as the Federal Circuit did in *Bd. of Trustees of Leland Stanford Junior Univ. v. Roche Molecular Sys., Inc.*, 583 F.3d 832 (Fed. Cir. 2009) ("*Roche I*"), *aff'd*, 563 U.S.

² Plaintiff also "lost the opportunity [for procedural reasons] to argue conception of certain claim elements [during employment] in a ruling that Bio-Rad has not appealed." *Id.* The Federal Circuit noted it had previously reached a different conclusion where post-employment limitations were added to the claims, but they did not add "anything of inventive significance" but were mere "refinements" to the invention already conceived during the term of the agreement. *Id.* at 1318 (discussing *FilmTec Corp. v Hydranautics*, 982 F.2d 1546, 1548 (Fed. Cir. 1992)).

776 (2011) ("*Roche II*"). There, the Federal Circuit rejected Stanford's challenge to an assignment clause under California law. 583 F.3d at 845-46. Should this Court conclude it has jurisdiction, it should hold the same.

C. By the terms of the Qualcomm Employment Agreements, Qualcomm Is a Co-Owner of the Asserted Patents

In its motion to dismiss for lack of standing, Samsung has already demonstrated Qualcomm is a co-owner of the asserted patents, for three independent reasons: (1) Dr. Raleigh conceived the claimed ideas while employed by Qualcomm, and they also relate to Qualcomm's business and result from his work there; (2) Dr. Raleigh filed the '354 provisional within one year of leaving Qualcomm,

[Application of the asserted patents, for three independent reasons: (1) Dr. Raleigh conceived the claimed ideas while employed by Qualcomm, and they also relate to Qualcomm's business and result from his work there; (2) Dr. Raleigh filed the '354 provisional within one year of leaving Qualcomm,

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For efficiency, Samsung will not repeat all of that evidence and argument here but will instead rebut new arguments Headwater has made in its motion—none of which Headwater included in its Complaint or discovery responses as a basis for standing. *See* Dkt. 42 ¶¶ 41-49 (asserting ownership of asserted patents without mentioning Qualcomm); Ex. 1 (HW responses to Samsung's 8th interrogatory) (asserting ownership without raising *any* of the arguments Headwater raises in its present motion). The Court would be justified in striking Headwater's present motion on this basis alone. Headwater is also wrong that Samsung failed to cite evidence in its own interrogatory responses. To the contrary, Samsung cited substantial evidence, including Dr. Raleigh's video. *See* Dkt. 239-18 at 40-43, 65 (citing bates number of the video, Dkt. 236-1, SAM-HW00679481, among other evidence, under Rule 33(d)).

Drs. Raleigh and/or Raissinia Conceived Before They Left Qualcomm
 Headwater argues the claimed inventions were conceived after Drs. Raleigh and Raissinia left

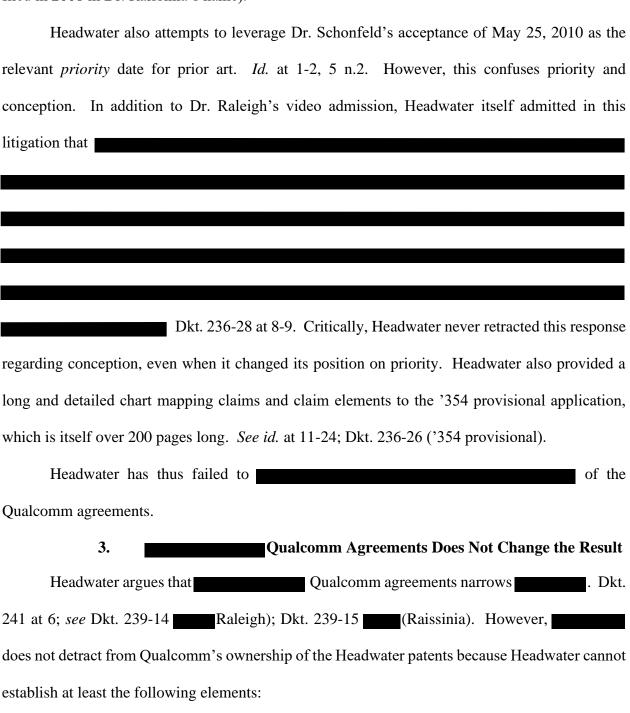
Qualcomm. Dkt. 241 at 4. This ignores Dr. Raleigh's express admission otherwise, as well as other evidence cited in Samsung's motion to dismiss. *See* Dkt. 236 at 1-9. Dr. Raleigh admitted in a public video that he conceived of the Headwater invention at Qualcomm. Dkt. 236-1 at 46:00-46:51; *see also id.* at 30:00, 41:00 (introduction of panel and Dr. Raleigh). Dr. Raleigh made this admission while speaking on a panel, arguing that established companies often reject disruptive technologies. *Id.* at 47:19-29 ("It's not in their economic interest to disrupt their own markets or to distract from the core products that they're already making lots of money on."). Dr. Raleigh's pre-litigation admission is more credible than his litigation-inspired denials.

2. Headwater Has Not Rebutted the Presumption in the Qualcomm Agreements

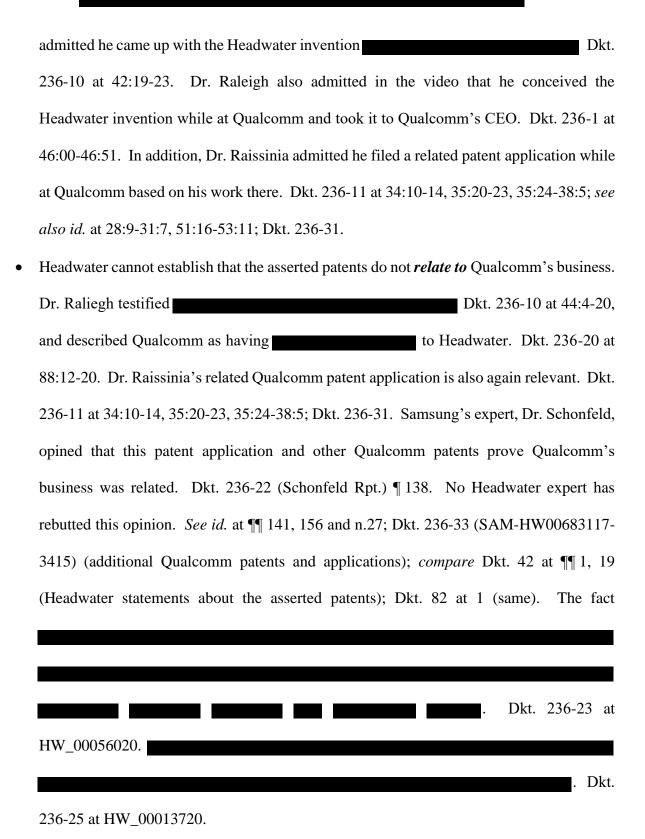
Headwater next argues it has rebutted _______ of the Qualcomm agreements. Dkt. 241 at 4. Not so. Headwater again disregards the evidence to the contrary cited in Samsung's motion to dismiss. *See* Dkt. 236 at 16-19. For example, Samsung already demonstrated—via undisputed expert opinion—that the asserted patents relate to Qualcomm's business and also to the work of both Dr. Raleigh and Dr. Raissinia at Qualcomm. *See* Dkt. 236 at 16-19. Again, when asked how he came up with the Headwater concepts, Dr. Raleigh admitted

Dkt. 236-10 at 42:19-23. He also testified *id.* at 44:4-20, and he described Qualcomm as having to Headwater. Dkt. 236-20 at 88:12-20. And when Dr. Raissinia was shown a related patent application he filed while at Qualcomm, he admitted "in [his] work for Qualcomm, [he] did work on power saving mechanisms in the field of the wireless communications." Dkt. 236-11 at 34:10-14. He agreed claim 1 of his Qualcomm application covers one method "that facilitates power save features in a wireless communication system" and

that it involved negotiating a scheduled window to wake up and communicate. *Id.* at 35:20-23, 35:24-38:5; *see also id.* at 28:9-31:7, 51:16-53:11; Dkt. 236-31 (Qualcomm patent application filed in 2008 in Dr. Raissinia's name).



Headwater cannot establish that Dr. Raleigh and Dr. Raissinia made the invention entirely
on their own time or without Qualcomm equipment, etc., especially since Dr. Raleigh



• Headwater cannot establish that the asserted patents did not *result from* Dr. Raleigh's and

Dr. Raissinia's work at Qualcomm. All of the evidence cited in the previous bullets is
circumstantial evidence to the contrary. In addition, Dr. Raleigh admitted he conceived
the Headwater ideas Dkt. 236-10 at 42:19-23.
Headwater also misreads the syntax of It argues the
narrows the scope of the assignment. Dkt. 241 at 7. However, like the California statute,
the Qualcomm agreements do not require assignment of inventions
Compare California Labor Code § 2870(a)
("Any provision in an employment agreement which provides that an employee shall assign, or
offer to assign, any of his or her rights in an invention to his or her employer shall not apply to an
invention that the employee developed entirely on his or her own time without using the
employer's equipment, supplies, facilities, or trade secret information except for those inventions
that either: (1) Relate at the time of conception or reduction to practice of the invention to the
employer's business, or actual or demonstrably anticipated research or development of the
employer; $or(2)$ Result from any work performed by the employee for the employer."). Thus, the
Finally, Headwater ignores
. Dkt. 239-14
¶ 1.5 (Raleigh;
Dkt. 239-

15 ¶ 1.5 (Raissinia; same). There is no evidence that Dr. Raleigh or Dr. Raissinia ever disclosed to Qualcomm, while they were employed there, that they considered the Headwater invention excluded from the assignment.

Headwater has failed to rebut Samsung's showing that Qualcomm is a co-owner of the asserted patents by the plain terms of its employment agreements with Drs. Raleigh and Raissinia.

4. Finally, Headwater argues Dkt. 241 at 7. This is both wrong and irrelevant. In fact, E.g., Dkt. 236-23 at HW_00056020; Dkt. 236-25 at HW 00013720. In addition, ■ . But by then, the California statute of limitations for breach of contract may have run. See California Code of Civil Procedure § 339(1) (2-year statute for breach of contract). In addition, . *MHL Tek, LLC v. Nissan Motor Co.*, 655 F.3d 1266, 1273-74 (Fed. Cir. 2011). Qualcomm was not required to expend resources in litigation with an ex-employee or to intervene in a patent case pending in a distant court. Even so, Qualcomm has supported Samsung's motion to dismiss by submitting a declaration to authenticate the agreements at issue. Dkt. 236-15.

D. This Case Should Be Dismissed for Lack of Standing

Standing is an issue for the Court to decide and is not tried to a jury. DDB Technologies,

L.L.C. v. MLB Advanced Media, L.P., 517 F.3d 1284, 1291-92 (Fed. Cir. 2008). Headwater agrees standing is a question of law. Dkt. 241 at 3.

"Where one co-owner possesses an undivided part of the entire patent, that joint owner must join all the other co-owners to establish standing." *Israel Bio-Eng'g Project v. Amgen, Inc.*, 475 F.3d 1256, 1264 (Fed. Cir. 2007). Here, because Headwater has failed to join co-owner Qualcomm and Drs. Raleigh and Raissinia, the Court should dismiss this case for lack of standing.

V. CONCLUSION

The Court should deny Headwater's requested summary judgment and instead dismiss this case for lack of standing because Qualcomm is a co-owner of the asserted patents and has not been joined. *See* Dkt. 236.

Dated: May 31, 2024 Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that a true and correct copy of the foregoing document was filed electronically in compliance with Local Rule CV-5 on May 31, 2024 and was served on all counsel of record via electronic mail.

/s/ Thad C. Kodish
Thad C. Kodish